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**From:** Smith, Bonnie  
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**Subject:** EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines - MONDAY - January 4, 2016

# EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines

**Monday, January 4, 2016**

## \*\*\* DAILY HOT LIST \*\*\*

### BORIT ASBESTOS SUPERFUND SITE: A STORY OF PROGRESS AND PROMISE

#### **AMBLER GAZETTE**

(Jan. 1) EPA'S 16 Page Insert Sent to all Ambler Gazette Subscribers

### TPP trade deal pits Pittsburgh against Philadelphia

#### **PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE**

(Jan 3) WASHINGTON — Pittsburgh manufactures the products. Philadelphia ships them around the world. One city stands to gain from expanding trade into the Pacific Rim while the other has much to lose, their mayors say. That's why Philadelphia's outgoing mayor, Michael Nutter, has been helping the White House stump for the Trans-Pacific Partnership while Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto stands opposed. On a recent press call arranged by the White House, Mr. Nutter told reporters the deal is good for his city and, as a whole, for Pennsylvania. He said the agreement would expand market access for services, software, telecommunications and more — resulting in higher-paying jobs. It also would reduce tariffs and ensure that trading partners are following the same environmental and labor rules as the U.S., he said. "The status quo puts our workers and businesses at a competitive disadvantage. [It causes] higher costs for American goods, more barriers to trade and poorer standards for workers and the environment abroad than we have here," he said. Mr. Peduto acknowledges that the trade deal might be good for some industries, but says any benefits are outweighed by harm it would do to the steel industry. That's why he's at odds with President Barack Obama, who considers the mayor a strong ally worthy of more than a dozen White House invitations, including one to the First Family's residence.

Editorial: Promotion Of CNG Sensible

**PITTSBURGH TIMES TRIBUNE**

The state's potential inclusion of the County of Lackawanna Transit System among 27 such agencies targeted for compressed natural gas stations would expand access to an abundant Pennsylvania fuel. The Department of Transportation wants to forge partnerships with companies to establish CNG stations at selected public transit agency facilities. The agencies would agree to buy some fuel from the stations, which would also be open to private and commercial vehicles. State agencies already have 149 buses powered by compressed gas, and COLTS Director Robert Fiume said the county transit bureau plans to convert some shared-ride vans to CNG and likely will replace diesel-powered buses with CNG buses. The state's emergence as a leader in natural gas production justifies PennDOT's move. The effort will create incentives for conversion of publicly owned and private fleets to CNG that can be recaptured relatively quickly, saving money for taxpayers and helping companies become more competitive. Production of natural gas vehicles nationally has jumped 40 percent over the last decade, and CNG is a cheaper alternative to machines that run on gasoline and diesel fuel. Steadily retreating oil and gasoline prices have removed some of CNG's cost advantage. But the recent regional average CNG price of \$1.99 per gallon of equivalent gasoline, according to industry tracker CNGprices.com, still compares very favorably to the average cost of diesel fuel, at \$2.52 per gallon. Expansion of natural gas vehicles also would help the state meet its clean air goals more easily. CNG vehicles emit about 25 percent fewer greenhouse gases than conventionally powered cars and trucks and they eliminate about 95 percent of the tailpipe emissions distributed by gasoline-fueled autos. CNG vehicles are quieter than traditionally powered units and they provide a comparable driving experience

"War on coal" seen behind federal mining rules that Maryland is opposing

**BALTIMORE SUN**

(Jan. 2) Just a few years ago, Jack Ternent was selling chain, rope and cement to the coal mines in the mountains around his store — the kind of trade that propped up Western Maryland's economy for more than a century. But as the coal industry has withered nationally, and in Maryland especially, Ternent said those kinds of supplies are now just as likely to sit idle in his warehouse. "Mining is what made this town," Ternent said, frowning below the portrait of his grandfather, who opened the lumber store here in 1885. "Now," the 73-year-old said, "'coal' is a dirty word." Amid a long decline in coal production and a shift toward cleaner sources

of energy, communities in Appalachian Maryland are bracing for a new challenge: a sweeping federal proposal intended to limit the environmental impact of coal mining on streams. Some are concerned the plan will deliver another blow to a once-vital local industry now teetering on the edge of extinction. The Department of the Interior rules, which the Obama administration hopes to complete later this year, would require more extensive water testing to guide efforts to mitigate the impact coal mines have on streams that flow from the mountains of Maryland's panhandle into the Potomac and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

### **Miller Chemical reimburses Adams County** **YORK DAILY RECORD**

(Dec.31) Miller Chemical has reimbursed Adams County for more than \$137,000 in materials and services rendered following the June 8 chemical fire that caused \$20 million in damages, an official confirmed Wednesday. The county originally billed the company for approximately \$164,000 on behalf of emergency companies and county hazmat crews that responded to the blaze, said John Eline, Adams County's emergency services director. More than 300 firefighters from more than 15 companies responded to the fire, which took more than 12 hours to extinguish. Payments made for less than the original claim, such as Miller Chemical's, are commonplace, Eline said. "We knew they would have adjusters go through and kick out adjusted claims and expenses," he said. "It's customary even in what we call small claims incidents, like a spill on the highway." The county did not expect the full reimbursement and accepted this amount as "payment in full," Eline said. A breakdown of how the reimbursement will be distributed was not immediately available. However, Eline previously stated that \$24,500 was requested on behalf of the county itself. The rest was on behalf of several local fire departments and hazmat units, he said in September... The fire began in the early hours of June 8 and destroyed a large warehouse storing household fertilizers. The cause of the fire remains undetermined because of the extensive amount of damage to the property, Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal Bradley Dunham said in July. Runoff from the firefighting effort leaked into local waterways, including the Conewago Creek, killing an estimated 10,000 fish, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission reported at the time. The cleanup process for Miller Chemical involved removal of contaminated water, which was being stored at the site of the fire for weeks following the blaze, and stripping top soil surrounding the site. Soil samples were taken recently from the site and are being analyzed, said John Repetz, a representative from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, in an email Thursday.

### Protecting waterways, one lasagna pan at a time

**EPA MID-ATLANTIC HEALTHY WATERS BLOG** (By Jennie Saxe) How can a mundane task, like washing dishes, protect local waterways like the Delaware River? It's simple! When you roll up your sleeves to scrub that lasagna pan, reach for a dish soap with EPA's Safer Choice label. Formerly known as EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) program, the Safer Choice label indicates products that have safer chemical ingredients and meet quality and performance standards. Products with the Safer Choice label have been reviewed to make sure they use chemicals from EPA's Safer Chemicals Ingredients List that do their specific job (for example, as solvents – needed to dissolve substances – or antimicrobials that limit or prevent bacterial growth) and are safer for aquatic life after they go down the drain. Safer Choice labeled products, like laundry detergent...

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## PENNSYLVANIA

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### Unseasonably warm weather bearing fruit for Pittsburgh-area farmers

(Dec. 31) Come December, Don Kretschmann has gotten used to seeing only root-based vegetables — carrots, beets, potatoes — growing at his 80-acre organic fruit and vegetable farm near Zelienople. Greens like lettuce, collard and kale are often frozen in the winter cold by Thanksgiving. This year, Mr. Kretschmann feels like he's living on another planet. "Up to Christmas, we had really beautiful lettuce coming from the field," Mr. Kretschmann said. "We're fully expecting to have collard and kale being picked in January. It's just unbelievable." As crop yields live and die by weather patterns, abnormally warm temperatures have been a godsend, particularly for farmers who depend on a late fall harvest for crops such as green vegetables. "There's no question that this warm weather has been a boom to us vegetable growers this fall," said Art King, owner of Harvest Valley Farms in Gibsonia. In most years, Mr. King is pleased if the greens can survive until Thanksgiving. "We actually picked and sold broccoli all the way up to Christmas. ... I can't remember ever doing that," he said. There are caveats, however. Fruit trees have a more nuanced growing pattern before they can be pruned, said Thomas Butzler, horticulture educator for Penn State Cooperative Extension in Clinton County. The fruit needs a certain number of hours in gradually cooler weather to harden enough to survive the winter cold. If the trees have not properly hardened, they're susceptible to a sudden cold snap that would destroy the tissue of the fruit. "Did we reach those hours [of hardening] yet? If not, will they? And if they don't, then fruit production will suffer," Mr. Butzler said. "We don't know how this is all going to play out." Mr. Kretschmann said he normally begins pruning some of his fruit trees as early as December and through March. This year, he is letting them go, and he's worried that when the cold does sweep in, the normally monthslong window to prune will be too short. If the weather changes quickly, the sap can freeze and the bark can split open, damaging the tree.

### The business answer to water quality and conservation

(Dec. 31) An on-board water treatment system that filtrates and disinfects water in the ballasts of large ships, preventing inadvertent transport of invasive species. A porous parking lot designed to drain rainwater directly into the ground, rather than into the overburdened sewer system. A wireless broadband system for barge crews, improving the safety and efficiency of river travel. Pittsburgh's three rivers may be iconic for its link to industrial growth, feeding power plants and manufacturing. But the rivers have also given rise to another subset of the economy that creates innovative ways to better use, clean and conserve water. Despite its abundance here, water is an increasingly precious resource across the country and around the world, boosting demand for technologies and services that help protect and conserve it. More attention lately has been given to problems both in urban areas — like aging infrastructure leading to combined sewer overflows and water main breaks — and rural, such as water scarcity complicating agriculture in dry regions. For those problems, such innovative solutions have emerged. And Pittsburgh was by all accounts the first U.S. city to truly define what the "water economy" means, said Steve McKnight, vice president of community and market assessments for Fourth Economy Consulting.

### **PITTSBURGH TIMES TRIBUNE**

#### Power plant obstacle cleared (Editorial today)

Council approved a conditional use permit for Invenergy LLC on Dec. 21, acknowledging the

company's compliance with borough zoning regulations. The Chicago energy company wants to construct a 1,500-megawatt, gas-fired power plant near the Casey Highway in Jessup. The award of the permit removes a major hurdle to development of the estimated \$500 million plant by concluding a lengthy battle over the town's zoning ordinance. The Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission in April judged the borough's zoning code restrictive because it effectively banned power plant construction anywhere in Jessup. Borough council in September amended the zoning ordinance to remove the power plant restriction, essentially acknowledging Invenergy's superior legal position on the issue. Council attached 15 conditions when it issued the operating permit, many of which are fairly standard procedural and regulatory stipulations, such as the availability of state environmental reports and guaranteed access for local inspections. Invenergy recently doubled its host agreement offer to the borough to \$1 million annually, and the company exhibited good faith in the spring when it dropped plans for a water-based cooling system in favor of an air-cooled setup to ease alarm about the potential impact of the plant's wastewater on Lackawanna River water quality. Council members have continued to honor their obligation to Jessup residents by adhering to the law and rejecting the emotionally charged arguments put forth by opponents of the plant.

#### DEP Invenergy Ready To Field Questions

Citizens concerned about how industrial wastewater from a controversial power plant proposed in Jessup could affect the local water system will have a chance Monday to raise questions and make comments during a state Department of Environmental Protection public hearing. The hearing will take place in the Valley View High School auditorium from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Scientists from DEP's Clean Water Program will join consultants from Invenergy LLC, the plant's developer, to answer questions about an industrial wastewater permit sought by the proposed Lackawanna Energy Center to discharge treated wastewater into Jessup's Grassy Island Creek, a designated cold-water fishery. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit, which is for treated wastewater, stormwater and other discharge that would flow into the creek, establishes pollution limits and specifies monitoring and reporting requirements. Before the meeting, DEP will give a five-minute presentation on the permit review process, after which Invenergy will present plans for the NPDES discharge permit at the plant. The first half of the hearing will consist of a question-and-answer period during which each person will be given the opportunity to ask two questions and a follow-up question about the discharge permit, DEP spokeswoman Colleen Connolly said.

First Day Hike Gets Year Started Off Right (Jan 2) NORTH ABINGTON TWP. — Angela Lambert stopped at a pine tree in the forest and pointed out some “pine cone bones” to the group following her. Stripped of their seeds, the husks were evidence that rodents spent a lot of time under the tree. “This is their food source, so this is the grocery store for the red squirrel,” Ms. Lambert, an environmental educator with the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, told the group. “This is where they come and get their meal.” About 30 people and one shaggy dog turned out for some fresh air, exercise and wilderness education at the First Day Hike on Friday at Lackawanna State Park. Part of a nationwide state park initiative, the First Day Hike was created to give people a healthy start to their new year, Ms. Lambert said, and to remind the public that resources exist at parks year-round — such as free snowshoe loaners at many parks, including Lackawanna State Park, and cross-country skis at places like Nescopeck State Park in Luzerne County. In its fifth year in Pennsylvania, the First Day Hike started 25

years ago in Massachusetts and has expanded to state parks in all 50 states. The Witter family drove from Milton on New Year's Day to check the Lackawanna State Park off their list. In the summer, the family set the goal of visiting all 120 state parks in Pennsylvania. To create a schedule, they put the park names in a bag and pulled one for each month. When Lackawanna State Park came up for January, Tim and Angela Witter decided the First Day Hike was a good time to see it. Their sons Trace, 10, and Trent, 3, bundled up in mittens and New England Patriots knit caps, hoped to gather water samples for Trace's new Christmas present, a microscope.

#### Cabot stable as oil prices edge up

Predicted oil rebound helps steady shares -Increasing crude oil prices have helped bolster share values of some energy companies, including Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., whose stock ended the week pretty much unchanged after enjoying a late-week spike, settling at \$17.69 per share at the Thursday close. However, shares of Cabot were down about 40 percent for 2015. Last week, shortened due to the new year, began with oil prices higher and the Energy Information Administration's crude oil inventory report showing a reduction in stockpiles, setting the table for a steady climb in oil.

#### Editorial: Promotion Of CNG Sensible

The state's potential inclusion of the County of Lackawanna Transit System among 27 such agencies targeted for compressed natural gas stations would expand access to an abundant Pennsylvania fuel. The Department of Transportation wants to forge partnerships with companies to establish CNG stations at selected public transit agency facilities. The agencies would agree to buy some fuel from the stations, which would also be open to private and commercial vehicles. State agencies already have 149 buses powered by compressed gas, and COLTS Director Robert Fiume said the county transit bureau plans to convert some shared-ride vans to CNG and likely will replace diesel-powered buses with CNG buses. The state's emergence as a leader in natural gas production justifies PennDOT's move. The effort will create incentives for conversion of publicly owned and private fleets to CNG that can be recaptured relatively quickly, saving money for taxpayers and helping companies become more competitive. Production of natural gas vehicles nationally has jumped 40 percent over the last decade, and CNG is a cheaper alternative to machines that run on gasoline and diesel fuel. Steadily retreating oil and gasoline prices have removed some of CNG's cost advantage. But the recent regional average CNG price of \$1.99 per gallon of equivalent gasoline, according to industry tracker CNGprices.com, still compares very favorably to the average cost of diesel fuel, at \$2.52 per gallon. Expansion of natural gas vehicles also would help the state meet its clean air goals more easily. CNG vehicles emit about 25 percent fewer greenhouse gases than conventionally powered cars and trucks and they eliminate about 95 percent of the tailpipe emissions distributed by gasoline-fueled autos. CNG vehicles are quieter than traditionally powered units and they provide a comparable driving experience.

#### **PA DAILY BLOG**

Greensburg to study potential walking, biking trails near hospital

Greensburg will have a study done in the spring to determine whether it makes sense to add

biking and walking trails in the neighborhoods surrounding Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital. "In order for you to move forward, you have to do a study," city Administrator Sue Trout said. "We don't know if it's feasible to build bike paths where there's such hilly terrain." The study will be funded by a \$52,000 grant from PennDOT and \$6,000 contributed by Excelsa Health. Greensburg does not have many resources for pedestrians and bicyclists, especially in the neighborhoods near the hospital that were named a Health Care District in 2013 and targeted by the city for economic development. The city hopes to join a national trend of municipalities that are putting more resources into improving bike travel, such as Pittsburgh. "Communities are becoming more accommodating for people that are cyclists, that are runners, that are walkers," said Steven Gifford, executive director of the Greensburg Community Development Corp. The master plan for the health care district makes bicycle accessibility a priority. It calls for bike lanes on roads as part of a network of paths that loop around the district to link with the Five Star Trail for walking and biking via Westminster Avenue. City officials had hoped PennDOT would provide a grant to start work on the bike lanes and multi-use paths right away, Gifford said. PennDOT, however, said the feasibility study would need to happen first, especially because the proposed network incorporates Pittsburgh and Otterman streets, which are state routes.

### **ALLENTOWN MORNING CALL**

Nestle: Planned Monroe County water extraction is sustainable

(Dec 31) The proposed Deer Park spring water project in Eldred Township, Monroe County, which has received a flood of complaints from some neighbors, would not have an adverse impact on residents, ground or surface water resources or the environment, Nestle Waters North America said Thursday. A hydrogeological report from EarthRes Group, an environmental consulting firm, found the proposed average water withdrawal of 200,000 gallons per day would be environmentally sustainable, Nestle said. While water-level monitoring during testing identified two residential wells within the test zone where there were fluctuations in water levels, the company said it did not affect the availability of water for those homes. In addition, Nestle said, other studies demonstrated there would be no significant increases in traffic or noise levels related to the project. "Our company has operated seven spring sites in Pennsylvania for about 20 years and we have not caused an adverse effect on water supply in those communities and we're committed to sustainable water withdrawals," said Eric Andreus, Deer Park hydrogeologist and natural resource manager. Nestle bottles its Deer Park water at two facilities in Breinigsville, where the company employs more than 475 people.

### **HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS**

Commentary: A key part of the #PaBudget is a sneak attack on the environment (Dec. 31) (By State Rep. Greg Vitali) Several provisions tucked into a budget-related bill known as the Fiscal Code would set back environmental protection in Pennsylvania. One would cancel regulations related to natural gas drilling. Another would delay the Commonwealth's effort to address climate change and a third would take money earmarked for energy conservation and direct it towards natural gas development. The Fiscal Code is one of several bills necessary to effectuate the Commonwealth budget. The bill's contents should be limited to directing how budget money should be spent. Unfortunately, the Pennsylvania Senate has inserted three environmentally troublesome provisions in this year's version of the legislation. The first would cancel regulations relating to conventional gas drilling (Chapter 78 surface regulations). These regulations would, among other things, provide stricter standards for spill reporting and clean up



and require predrilling investigations to ascertain the existence of active or abandoned wells. Drilling into existing wells can result in groundwater contamination and other environmental damage. These drilling regulations have been three years in the making, subject to twenty four thousand public comments and twelve public hearings. The second troublesome provision would delay the Pennsylvania implementation plan to reduce greenhouse emission from coal and gas fired power plants. This state implementation plan is required by recent EPA regulations designed to reduce carbon emissions from power plants by about 32 percent by 2030. Power plants are the largest single source of greenhouse gas pollution in Pennsylvania.

### **LEIGH VALLEY LIVE**

#### Volunteers sought to maintain Appalachian Trail section slated for re-routing

(Jan. 3) A new group of volunteers is needed to maintain the Appalachian Trail along the northern borders of Lehigh and Northampton counties, a section of the 2,160-mile path that is being eyed for major changes in coming years. Rounding up local residents to help out is critical for the Keystone Trails Association as it considers committing as maintainer of the 10-mile section. To gauge interest, the Harrisburg-based nonprofit is holding two recruiting hikes in January. Bookending Lehigh Gap, just south of Palmerton, Carbon County, this stretch of the trail is planned to be largely re-routed due to erosion, beginning as early as 2017, according to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. "We'd like to take over responsibility for it, but we need to recruit some local people in kind of the greater Palmerton area to help us with that," Keystone Trails Association member Jim Foster said. 9/11 Memorial Trail and Appalachian Trail cross paths in Wind Gap The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has the design done for the new route and hopes to tackle preliminary compliance work in 2016, said Karen Lutz, the conservancy's Mid-Atlantic Region director.

### **PA DAILY BLOG**

#### DCNR Names John S. Hallas Director Bureau Of State Parks

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recently announced John S. Hallas has been appointed Director of the Bureau of State Parks to replace the retiring David L. Kemmerer.

The appointment was effective December 28. John Hallas began his career with the Bureau of State Parks in 2000, first serving as a park manager trainee at the bureau's Region 3 Office in Schellsburg, Bedford County. Other assignments included Canoe Creek State Park Complex, based in Blair County, and Prince Gallitzin State Park in Cambria County. In 2003 he was appointed park manager at Tobyhanna State Park in Monroe County. A veteran of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Hallas served as a sergeant with the U.S. Army in Field Artillery and Infantry units, with assignments at Fort Bragg, N.C., and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He was honorably discharged with seven years of active duty service in 1993. Hallas, 47, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Sciences, with a concentration in Geology, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology, with a concentration in Archeology and Cultural Resources Management, from the University of Pittsburgh. David Kemmerer served the citizens of the Commonwealth in a variety of positions in the former Department of Environmental Resources and DCNR for 41 years. Kemmerer was first hired by the former Department of Environmental Resources as a Labor Foreman and entered the Park Superintendent job series in 1975. From there he rose to become a State Parks Regional

Manager (Region 4), and in 2004, was selected for the Assistant Director of State Parks position where he served for eight years until being appointed Director in 2012.

### **YORK DAILY RECORD**

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## **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

### **WASHINGTON POST**

Washington, D.C., eclipses warmest December on record by an enormous margin (Dec. 31) December 2015 in Washington was the epitome of weird weather. It will be remembered not for its steadily decreasing temperatures and occasional flurry, but for its humid, foggy days with high temperatures in the 70s, and lows that could masquerade as normal highs. Some cherry trees, irises, roses and daffodils bloomed straight through the month, painting a surreal portrait next to evergreen trees and red bows. Instead of curling up in front of a fireplace, many in Washington turned to air conditioning rather than heat on Christmas. This month has been more typical of November — or March, for that matter — and rarely felt like meteorological winter.

This December was far from normal. In fact it was record-warm by an enormous margin and now ranks as the largest departure from normal out of any month in any year. With an approximate average temperature of 51.2 degrees, this month will end 11.5 degrees warmer than normal in Washington — 5.5 degrees warmer than the previous warmest December.

### **WMDT-TV 47**

#### Associated Press Styrofoam ban begins Friday in DC

(Dec 31) WASHINGTON, D.C. - (AP) A ban on Styrofoam food and drink containers is set to go into effect in the District of Columbia. Media outlets report that the ban on Styrofoam begins Friday. The D.C. Council and then-mayor Vincent C. Gray passed the law in 2014 as part of a set of environmental initiatives that also includes requiring businesses to use compostable disposable dining products by 2017. Gray said the ban would improve the health of the Anacostia River. Officials with the Department of Energy and Environment will launch undercover spot checks to ensure no businesses use the foam containers. Establishments not in compliance will be issued a warning and given 30 days to follow the new law. A business still using the containers after 30 days will be fined \$100.

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## **DELAWARE**

### **YOU TUBE**

Delaware Riverkeeper Riverwatch Video Jan. 2 (video) In this week's Riverwatch, citizens successfully protect more than 100 acres of land from development, environmental impact reviews begin for the PennEast Pipeline project and a rally is planned by farmers who oppose fracking.

### **DELAWARE CAPE GAZETTE**

DNREC sinks Shearwater as boon to Delaware's acclaimed reef system *World War II-era ship now 120 feet down, off Indian River inlet* (Dec. 30)

Delaware and DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife sank the former Army and Navy ship Shearwater onto the Del-Jersey-Land Reef Dec. 11 as the latest fish-attracting habitat and underwater enhancement to Delaware's artificial reef system. Shearwater was commissioned in 1944 as a coastal freighter for the Army and later converted to a Navy survey support ship – went down in 120 feet of water about one-half nautical mile from the centerpiece of the Del-Jersey-Land Reef, the 568-foot ex-destroyer USS Arthur W. Radford. Shearwater, one-third Radford's length but with a height from keel of 38 feet, ended her working life in 2012 as a menhaden boat out of Reedville, Va., where she was last converted in the early 1970s to stay afloat. Shearwater was sunk at approximate coordinates of 38 deg. 31.200' N Latitude and 074 deg. 30.800' W Longitude, in the square-mile area comprising the Del-Jersey-Land Reef, approximately 26 nautical miles southeast of Indian River Inlet. Also known as Delaware Reef Site 13, the Del-Jersey-Land Reef is one of numerous artificial reef sites established by DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife that have become "hot spot" destinations for anglers from

throughout the region. A new state record bluefish weighing 24.8 pounds was caught over the Del-Jersey-Land reef just last month. "The artificial reef system has supported Delaware's recreational fishing industry since its inception - and has grown into a flourishing program through DNREC's dedicated efforts and strong partnerships with the private sector and federal agencies," said DNREC Secretary David Small. "The wider renown it gained since the Radford sinking in 2011 is another great example of the Markell administration's investment in Delaware's conservation economy paying off with wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities while significantly contributing to the state's financial health." "Shearwater is a great addition as reef structure," said Division of Fish & Wildlife Director David Saveikis, "spreading the wealth of fish habitat not only around the Del-Jersey-Land Reef, but further diversifying and enhancing our widespread reef system comprising a variety of reefing material. Anglers will soon find plenty of fish 'right at home' on Shearwater, too."

#### **DELAWARE FIRST MEDIA - NPR NEWS RADIO**

Vegetables Likely To Take More Of Your Plate in 2016 (Jan. 3) About a decade ago, food writer Michael Pollan issued a call to action: Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants. As 2016 opens, it looks like many American cooks and diners are heeding that call. Vegetables have moved from the side to the center of the plate. And as another year begins, it appears that plants are the new meat. Bon Appetit magazine named AL's Place in San Francisco the best new restaurant of 2015. Meats at AL's Place are listed under "sides." The rest of the menu features vegetable-centric dishes sometimes featuring animal protein as an ingredient – pear curry, black lime yellowtail, persimmon, blistered squash. The hanger steak (with smoked salmon butter), however, is a side dish. This and other restaurants are also using the whole vegetable. What used to go in the compost heap is now fermented, roasted or smoked and used in other dishes. The stem-to-leaf approach follows the example of nose-to-tail eating. WastED is a project that brings together chefs, farmers, fishermen and food purveyors to "reconceive waste" in the food chain, according to the group's website. .... The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the *Environmental* Protection Agency have set a goal to reduce food waste by 50 percent by 2030 ...

#### **(Editor) Maryland Startup Redirects River Of Rejected Gifts**

(Jan 1), 2016 We change our minds about purchases a lot in the U.S., especially after the buying binge of the holidays. Returns cost retailers about \$260 billion each year. That doesn't include the cost to the environment of all that producing, shipping, and throwing away. One of the companies on the receiving end of all those returns is trying to reduce the cost to retailers, and the cost to the environment.

The Optoro warehouse in Maryland is a hoarder's dream — the building is packed, floor to ceiling, with returned merchandise. The CEO, Tobin Moore, stands neck deep in stuff that people changed their minds about. "This is probably 10 truckloads just right here — air compressors, power drills, lawn mower I think, carseat down on the bottom," Moore says. You might think that when you return something, it goes back on the shelf. But it's often too much hassle for the stores to sort and restock. Returns might go to liquidators or resellers, or straight to the landfill. Optoro is trying to change that, with something called "reverse logistics." That doesn't include the cost to the *environment* of all that

producing, shipping, and throwing away. One of the companies on the receiving end of all those ...

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## WEST VIRGINIA

### **WEST VIRGINIA METRO NEWS**

More than 500 Murray Energy miners being laid off in northern West Virginia

(Dec. 31) MONONGALIA COUNTY, W.Va. — At the start of 2016, more than 500 employees are being laid off at Murray Energy mine sites in northern West Virginia. Murray Energy officials would not confirm the total number of coal miner layoffs, but information from the United Mine Workers of America indicated the layoffs would break down as follows:

- 112 workers at the Ohio County Mine, the former Shoemaker Mine, where approximately 170 miners were laid off earlier this year
- 125 workers at the Marshall County Mine, the former McElroy Mine, where approximately 260 miners were laid off previously in 2015
- 107 workers at the Harrison County Mine, the former Robinson Run Mine.
- 82 workers at the Marion County Mine, the former Loveridge Mine
- 106 workers at the Monongalia County Mine, the former Blacksville Mine, where approximately 128 miners were laid off earlier this year.

In Ohio, 54 people are being laid off at the Ohio Valley Coal Corporation Mine at Powhatan Point, Ohio, the former Powhatan #6 Mine. A previous round of layoffs in May reduced the workforce there by 155. These numbers do not include possible layoffs of nonunion workers. "It's just a bad day. It's a bad day for the industry and it's a bad for all of us who work in this industry," said Delegate Mike Caputo (D-Marion, 50), vice president of the United Mine Workers of America, District 31. "It's sad that on the final days of 2015, we get one last, cruel blow to coal mining families." Murray Energy officials have blamed the layoffs on the current state of the coal market. "The coal marketplace has been destroyed by President Barack Obama and his supporters, including the Sierra Club, the increased utilization of natural gas to generate electricity, and the extremely excessive coal severance tax in the state of West Virginia," Gary Broadbent, Murray spokesperson, said in a statement. According to company information, 7,500 people work for Murray Energy at mines sites Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Utah and West Virginia. Heading into 2016, "I don't know what the future is going to be," Caputo said of the coal industry on Thursday's MetroNews "Talkline."

### **WHEELING INTELLIGENCER**

Ohio EPA awards Cleveland urban forestry effort \$42K grant

CLEVELAND (AP) — Efforts to increase Cleveland's urban forest canopy are getting a boost from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The agency's Environmental Education Fund

awarded a grant of nearly \$42,000 to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Holden Arboretum and other local partners to teach area residents how to properly plant and care for trees. The intent is to improve the density of trees and woody plants that can benefit both people and the environment. The EPA said in announcing the grant that trees help lower temperatures by providing shade. They also filter pollution, reduce storm water runoff, increase property values and enhance wildlife habitat. Additional partners include the Slavic Village Community and Old Brooklyn development corporations, Ohio City Incorporated and others. The grant was one of seven awarded statewide. (full brief)

## **BECKLEY REGISTER HERALD**

### Raleigh chamber outlines new goals

The Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce has outlined key issues it hopes will be addressed during the upcoming session of the West Virginia legislative session starting next week. Two Chamber position papers tackle several issues ranging from right-to-work, toll roads, fighting for coal and continued opportunities for education in the county. The papers outline the organization's objectives, as set by its Governmental Affairs and Educational committees. The governmental affairs committee has nine objectives. Key among them is energy and environment. Paramount is continuing to fight for coal. The Chamber believes President Obama has waged a "successful" war on coal, which has had a negative economic impact on the region. "Factually speaking, the reduction in the standard of living and impoverishment of thousands of families in West Virginia has had and will continue to have a much greater negative impact on the environment and socio-economics of the people of West Virginia than the continued use of coal to generate electrical power," the Chamber's position paper states. "As a consequence of the Obama Administration's misguided policies, the coal industry, one of the most important economic generators in southern West Virginia, is near collapse," the paper continues. The coal industry has lost thousands of jobs within the last few years, with headlines reading Alpha Natural Resources Inc., Murray Energy Corp. and Patriot Coal Corp. slashing jobs as coal prices fall by about 15 percent in 2015 and environmental regulations are tightened. The Chamber contends electricity generated by coal fire is "by far the least expensive" avenue to producing electric power. Over the last three decades, the Chamber believes, the coal industry has improved both its environmental and safety records more than other industries.

### From coal decline to lost chances, 2015 was tough for W. Va. business

It was a tough year for business in West Virginia. Yes, the state announced in February that consumer product giant Procter & Gamble will build a manufacturing facility in Berkeley County. But the state continued to struggle with a staggeringly high unemployment rate, loss of energy jobs, dwindling population, especially among the working age, and lost opportunities to attract manufacturing jobs. Throughout the year, the business community praised the GOP-led Legislature for creating a less hostile business environment and in December West Virginia was bumped off a business-friendly special interest group's judicial hellhole list. However, nobody has stated West Virginia is an advantageous environment for business.

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# MARYLAND

## **BALTIMORE SUN**

"War on coal" seen behind federal mining rules that *Maryland* is opposing

(Jan. 2) Just a few years ago, Jack Ternent was selling chain, rope and cement to the coal mines in the mountains around his store — the kind of trade that propped up Western Maryland's economy for more than a century. But as the coal industry has withered nationally, and in Maryland especially, Ternent said those kinds of supplies are now just as likely to sit idle in his warehouse. "Mining is what made this town," Ternent said, frowning below the portrait of his grandfather, who opened the lumber store here in 1885. "Now," the 73-year-old said, "coal" is a dirty word." Amid a long decline in coal production and a shift toward cleaner sources of energy, communities in Appalachian Maryland are bracing for a new challenge: a sweeping federal proposal intended to limit the environmental impact of coal mining on streams. Some are concerned the plan will deliver another blow to a once-vital local industry now teetering on the edge of extinction. The Department of the Interior rules, which the Obama administration hopes to complete later this year, would require more extensive water testing to guide efforts to mitigate the impact coal mines have on streams that flow from the mountains of Maryland's panhandle into the Potomac and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

## **ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL GAZETTE**

**People to watch: Erik Michelsen, watershed program administrator** With the county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program slated to get running at full tilt in 2016 the program's director Erik Michelsen expects to have a busy year. Over \$600 million is budgeted for hundreds of stormwater projects in the next few years, that's just over half of the projected cost of the backlog of projects needed to meet federal pollution standards by 2025. Michelsen is charged with coordinating the many moving pieces leading up to and through project construction, keeping the public informed, and more at the helm of the WPRP. He is honest about the challenge. Up to this point we have been using the land aggressively for a few centuries," he told *The Capital* last spring. "Now we are talking about rolling back that damage over a 10-to-15-year time frame. That's a tall order." Michelsen's previous experience as executive director of the South River Federation prepared him for the task. Much of his work there focused on gearing up the organization's watershed restoration work. In 2013 the county passed legislation to fund work through a stormwater fee that costs the majority of property owners in the county \$85 a year. And the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program was created. In 2015, the County Council and County Executive Steve Schuh wrestled with proposals to gut the funding legislation and attempt to pay for the program through other means. The measures were defeated and the program survived intact.

## **CHESAPEAKE BAY**

### **Bay Journal**

Study of sick bass in Susquehanna cites endocrine disrupters

### **Baltimore Sun**

December warmth was one more contrast in what will be globe's hottest year on record

### **Lynchburg, Va. News and Advance**

State conservation program picks up steam with Lynchburg-area cattle farms -

### **Salisbury, Md. - Daily Times**

Estrogen is a concern in our waterways (OPINION)

### **Easton, Md. - Star Democrat**

STEM students designing solutions to city runoff (OPINION)

### **Bay Journal**

First weekend hikes

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## **VIRGINIA**

### **ROANOKE TIMES**

FERC wants more details about proposed natural gas pipeline tap in Franklin County



(Jan. 2) Blair Boone discovered in November that a map filed by Mountain Valley Pipeline sited a tap for Roanoke Gas on the family's farm in Franklin County. A black "X" in a blue circle marked the spot. Boone's heart sank. In August, he and his mother, Mavis, then 90 years old, told a survey crew seeking a route for the proposed 42-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline to stay off the family's property adjacent to the Blackwater River. It now appears that a tap, which would allow Roanoke Gas to draw natural gas from the high-pressure pipeline, would likely be sited in or near the vicinity of Southway Farm, a 350-acre property between Boones Mill and Rocky Mount that Franklin County intends to develop for a business park. But the site that would be on the Boone family property has not been ruled out, according to officials with Roanoke Gas. The Mountain Valley project, a 301-mile interstate pipeline, requires a green light from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission before construction can begin. In correspondence dated Dec. 24, FERC instructed Mountain Valley to provide, within 20 days, more details about the proposed Roanoke Gas connection. FERC asked for a pipeline milepost for the site, an estimate of anticipated volume of gas delivered there, a site plan "and other pertinent details." John D'Orazio, president and CEO of Roanoke Gas parent company RGC Resources, said Thursday it is possible that at least some of the details requested by FERC could be provided within 20 days. He said other details could hinge on facts not yet known, such as the pipeline's final route and what volume of natural gas might flow into a new distribution system.

## **PUBLIC NEWS SERVICE - VA**

### Critics of Dominion Coal-Ash Disposal Plans Cite Health Risks to Rivers

**(January 4)** RICHMOND, Va. – The Dominion utility company's plans for closing coal ash impoundments at four power plants are drawing criticism. Dominion has asked for Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permission to close the huge coal ash ponds at power stations on the James and Elizabeth rivers, and on a tributary of the Potomac. Brad McLane, senior attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center, says the DEQ looks likely to approve Dominion's plan to drain the water out, release it into the rivers and bury the ash by capping the impoundments. He says that would release mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium and other heavy metals in the ash into the rivers. "A toxic soup of different metals that are harmful to aquatic life, and to human health," he states. "Putting caps on top of the problem just isn't going to fix anything." McLane notes a Duke Energy coal ash spill two years ago all but killed a huge portion of the Dan River. Dominion insists the plan won't damage the waterways. Disposal is likely to take years. One of the impoundments is nearly 100 acres and sits behind a wall 100 feet high.

Also covered : Duke making progress at Dan River, awaiting permit, Roanoke Times

## **NBC TV 29**

(Jan. 3) Virginia Discovery Museum Awarded Grant CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va (WVIR) - The Building Goodness Foundation is awarding a new grant to the Virginia Discovery Museum on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. The money will help fund renovations for the children's educational center. Virginia Discovery Museum plans to replace its roof, lights, and floor to improve the learning environment for visitors. "We want people to understand that we're an

educational resource for the community, not just a rainy day play space and with us having this facelift and the ability to bring in some new exhibits, that'll help us to be able to build our programming which is our ultimate goal," said Beth Solak of the Virginia Discovery Museum. Virginia Discovery Museum tentatively plans to close for renovations in April and open back up in May.

### **CHARLOTTESVILLE DAILY PROGRESS**

Public meeting on Hardware River pollution set for Jan. 12,

(Jan. 2) The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 12 at Walton Middle School to present a water quality improvement plan for the Hardware River, which runs through the counties of Albemarle and Fluvanna. A state report recently identified both the North Fork and the main stem of the Hardware River as impaired from E. coli violations. Failing septic systems, straight pipes, wildlife and livestock are the main sources of the increased levels of bacteria, according to state officials. The high level of bacteria poses a health risk for people in contact with the water. Waste from humans and animals can transmit diseases such as hepatitis A and giardiasis. A plan to reduce the amount of bacteria, based on a 2007 DEQ study that identified the sources of bacteria in the river, will be presented at the meeting. The presentation will include a synopsis of the problem and present associated costs, measurable goals and an implementation timeline. The plan also will include recommendations and best management practices for landowners and farmers in the area who wish to participate in the effort. Existing federal and state incentive programs will be used to encourage property owners to voluntarily implement the plan.

### **SUSSEX PROGRESS**

Sussex County Landfill given notice of violation after Dec. 3 inspection(Jan 2)SUSSEX — Prince George residents will be glad to know that action is being taken on the foul odor that has been plaguing the eastern end of the county for months. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality issued a notice of violation to the Sussex County Landfill Dec. 21 after officials observed violations during a Dec. 3 inspection. The landfill is operated by Atlantic Waste Disposal Inc., which operates as a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc. There has been no single issue that has been brought before the Board of Supervisors that has disturbed the public more than this one," said Percy Ashcraft, county administrator. "I respect the landfill and its purpose. It has an important role in the infrastructure of Sussex County. The owners have been very cooperative and even attended Board of Supervisors meetings to explain their situation. However, there comes a time when the state has to say enough is enough and force the operators to take some kind of immediate action. That sounds like what happened with the Notice of Violation."Sussex County

Also carried in: Landfill given notice of violation after Dec. 3 inspection, Petersburg Progress-Index and State issues notices of violation to Sussex County Landfill, Richmond Times-Dispatch

### **NORTHERN VA DAILY**

Year in Review: Area environment impacted in 2015 A number of positive developments occurred in 2015 for the region's environment. **Edinburg Mill** The Edinburg Mill will receive a new bioretention system as Friends of the North Fork of Shenandoah River work with state officials to mitigate storm water pollution at the mill. The Environmental Protection Agency told

Friends of North Fork, along with 14 other state groups, that they would receive funding from a Green Streets, Green Towns, Green Jobs grant initiative. Friends of North Fork received approximately \$43,615 to install the bioretention filter system to alleviate storm water pollution in Stoney Creek. **Invasive species** Invasive and non-native plants are a norm for staff at the Shenandoah National Park. The park documented 352 non-native plant species, and staff members are looking to protect the park. While most of the non-native species are not invasive, there are a few that can cause environmental harm. One such species is garlic mustard, which is an edible biennial that was intentionally introduced as a pot herb back in the early 1860s. About 100,000 acres in the park contain the garlic mustard plant, and it can disrupt native plants and animals that call the park home. **Clean energy legislation** On April 22, Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed into law six pieces of legislation under the title of Clean Energy Jobs that are designed to expand industry in the commonwealth.

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### **BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

#### Protecting waterways, one lasagna pan at a time

(By Jennie Saxe) How can a mundane task, like washing dishes, protect local waterways like the Delaware River? It's simple! When you roll up your sleeves to scrub that lasagna pan, reach for a dish soap with EPA's Safer Choice label. Formerly known as EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) program, the Safer Choice label indicates products that have safer chemical ingredients and meet quality and performance standards. Products with the Safer Choice label have been reviewed to make sure they use chemicals from EPA's Safer Chemicals Ingredients List that do their specific job (for example, as solvents – needed to dissolve substances – or antimicrobials that limit or prevent bacterial growth) and are safer for aquatic life after they go down the drain. Safer Choice labeled products, like laundry detergent...

### **INSIDE EPA**

#### States, Industry Claim EPA Oil & Gas 'Aggregation' Policy Options Unlawful

Several states and oil and gas industry groups claim that both of EPA's proposed options for how to "aggregate", or combine, energy sector emissions for Clean Air Act permitting purposes are unlawful, and some groups are urging the agency to withdraw and overhaul the proposal rather than finalizing either of the two proposed options.

#### **Related Story: EPA Seeks Input On Quantifying Oil & Gas Sector Voluntary Methane Cuts**

#### Industry Urges EPA To Modify 'Low-Cost' Nutrient Case Studies Document

Wastewater utilities are raising concerns that an EPA draft study on "low-cost techniques" for reducing nutrient discharges from wastewater treatment plants fails to provide the complete policy context and challenges to nutrient reduction issues by addressing economics without considering technical and other barriers to increased nutrient removal.

### HEI President Eyes Ozone Study Update As 'Insurance' On Air Policy Focus

Health Effects Institute (HEI) President Dan Greenbaum is suggesting that EPA ask the National Research Council (NRC) to update its landmark 1991 study on which gases contribute most to harmful ozone formation, as an "insurance policy" to verify that EPA is focusing its air policy on the pollution sources to blame for high ozone levels.

### Environmentalists Criticize Lack Of Superfund Money, Alternative Cleanups

(Dec. 24) Environmentalists in a new report are citing repeated shortfalls in funding EPA's Superfund program to press for reinstatement of industry taxes to pay for orphaned cleanup sites, and are also criticizing the agency for its growing use of an alternative cleanup program instead of placing sites on the National Priorities List (NPL) as well as alleged mismanagement of a Missouri site. "The lack of polluter pays fees and the dependency on taxpayer revenues has led to a funding shortfall, which has weakened Superfund's response to pressing environmental health concerns," the Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ) says in the report. The report, "Superfund: Polluters Pay So Children Can Play 35th Anniversary Report," was released Dec. 10, one day before the Superfund law's 35th anniversary. The report is part of an effort by 32 groups representing 31 Superfund sites across the country lobbying lawmakers to reinstate the polluter pays fees, according to CHEJ. The report finds that the lack of funding has led to instability in the Superfund program. The Superfund taxes, which included excise taxes on the oil and chemical industries and income taxes on corporations, were instituted in the 1980s but were never reauthorized when they expired in 1995, leaving Congress to appropriate money from general Treasury revenues in order to clean up sites for which the responsible party is no longer solvent. The report, citing a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, says funding for the Superfund program has dropped from about \$2 billion in 1999 to less than \$1.1 billion in 2013, in constant dollars. "This decrease has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the number of sites cleaned up," CHEJ says. "From 2001 to 2008, there was more than a 50% decrease in the number of sites cleaned up." In addition, fewer cleanups have begun each year, and ongoing projects have seen insufficient funding, it says. Compounding this has been the addition of new NPL sites to the list each year, the report says. The report notes that the Obama administration has repeatedly backed reinstatement of the Superfund taxes, "but intense opposition from Congress has prevented" that.

## **GREENWIRE**

REGULATION: 2016 holds flurry of state planning, legal drama for Clean Power Plan

SCIENCE: Could ice sheets reveal the secrets of sea-level rise?

FOOD SECURITY: Meet the neighbors to stay alive, new climate research suggests

RENEWABLE ENERGY: Offshore wind to set sail, studies find

COAL: China to halt new mines

EXTREME WEATHER: El Niño set to worsen food shortages

HEALTH: Bad Delhi air prompts car restrictions

POLITICS: Climate change an unlikely GOP issue for 2016

U.S. EPA employees don't just write regulations -- sometimes, they sing about them. (Greenwire, 12/24/2015)

### **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Insurer: 2015 saw lowest natural disaster losses in 6 years BERLIN (AP) — Last year saw the lowest financial costs from natural disasters worldwide since 2009 as the El Nino weather phenomenon reduced hurricane activity in the North Atlantic, a leading insurer said Monday. The year's most devastating disaster was the earthquake in Nepal in April, but only a fraction of the resulting losses was insured. Insurer Munich Re said in an annual survey that both insured losses and overall costs resulting from disasters were the lowest since 2009. It said that there were some \$27 billion in insured losses, while overall costs — including losses not covered by insurance — totaled \$90 billion. Those figures were down from \$31 billion and \$110 billion respectively in 2014. The costliest single event for the insurance industry was a series of winter storms that hit the northeastern U.S. and Canada in February. They generated insured losses of \$2.1 billion and total losses of \$2.8 billion.

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Schuykill Action Network Student Street Art Contest



***Your student's environmental artwork can be transformed into street art!***

***What is the contest?***

Students create a drawing that shows how we can help make the environment cleaner. The winners drawings will be transformed into street art surrounding a storm drain. These drawings will help educate people about the connection of storm drains to streams and what they can do to make our environment cleaner.

***Best wishes to all for a successful year ahead in protecting public health and our environment.***

**Bonnie Smith, Press Officer**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mid-Atlantic Region**

**Philadelphia**

**Email: [bonnie.smith@epa.gov](mailto:bonnie.smith@epa.gov)**

**Phone:** 215.814.5543